WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per WHO-NPCB (National Programme for Control of Blindness) survey (1986—89) it was estimated in 1989 that there are 12 million blind persons in the country.

(b) Under National Programme for Control of Blindness, the following infrastructure for eye care was sanctioned during 1990-91 :

1. Strengthening of Primary Health Centres— 250
2. District Mobile Units— 56
3. Eye Banks 11

During 1990-91, 11.83 lakh Cataract operations have been performed.

Affiliation of Nehru Homoeopathic College

2848. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Health Department of the Delhi Administration has not accepted Ordinance-XH of the Ordinance of University for the teachers of Nehru Homoeopathic College;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Delhi Administration to get the college affiliated to the Delhi University with or without acceptance of Ordinance-XII?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The matter is still under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

Treatment of leprosy

2849. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leprosy patients in the country State-wise;

(b) whether proper attention has not been focussed on leproay control and its treatment for the last few years; and

(c) the funds earmarked for treatment and control of leprosy in the 8th Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The number of leprosy patients in the country statewise as on March, 1991 is givn in the statement enclosed. *(See* below)

(b) The National Leprosy Control Programme launched in 1954-55 was converted into National Leprosy Eradication Programme with the goal of arresting disease activities in all known cases by 2000 A.D. This is being done by introduction of Multi. Drug Therapy (MDT). During the last few years efforts under NLEP have been accelerated and more areas have been brought under MDT. Therefore, it is, not correct to say that proper attention has not been focussed on leprosy control and its' treatment for the last few years.

(c) 8th Plan provisions have not yet been finalised.

Statement

Number of Leprosy cases by States

(In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Cases as on 3/91
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.13
3	Assam	.18